

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Thursday, November 13, 2025

Last Minute



This afternoon, the UCLA Legislative Assembly will meet and its agenda includes a resolution regarding a budget "deficit" and issues of faculty shared governance and access budget information.* There appears to have been a last-minute, preemptive strike by Murphy Hall yesterday:

From the [Bruin](#): *UCLA is launching a new leadership coalition to manage the university's budgetary shortfall amid state and federal funding cuts, Chancellor Julio Frenk announced in a Wednesday campuswide email. Frenk, who will chair the Executive Budget Action Group, said in the email that the group's creation was prompted by "structural budget deficits, federal and state funding uncertainties, and rising costs," which challenge the university's academic mission. The budget action group will create guidelines for future campus financial*

decisions, investigate specific areas for improvement in its investments and emphasize transparency in all of its budgetary decisions, Frenk said in the email...

Frenk outlined commitments for himself as chair in the email, which included an emphasis on shared governance with faculty. Megan McEvoy, the chair of the Academic Senate, will serve as a faculty representative in the group, he said in the email. McEvoy said in an emailed statement that Darnell Hunt, UCLA's executive vice chancellor and provost, told the Academic Senate about the group and announced her role as chair at a meeting last week. She added that the Academic Senate was not involved in the group's creation and hopes Frenk and Hunt will engage in "meaningful shared governance."

"I don't know my role or how the group will function yet," McEvoy said in the statement. "The Senate has repeatedly advocated for meaningful shared governance where the Senate, as an institution, consults on budgetary matters primarily through the Council on Planning and Budget." ...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/11/12/julio-frenk-announces-executive-budget-action-group-to-manage-uclas-monetary-concerns>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/11/rumors.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [11:03 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Revitalizing Westwood

Executive Summary



Current to Goal State
Westwood experiences success with established operations and partnerships with local stakeholders, and active participation with the public.

WVIA aims to create an integrated destination that not only serves students but also non-students such as families, residents, and young professionals, but is limited by challenges in perception and systemic barriers.



Address Perception Gaps
Westwood faces perception challenges as a student-centric area that limits interest from non-student segments, and perception about limited parking.

Perception gaps can be addressed with diversified retail mix fulfilling non-student preferences, generating corporate sponsorships for name recognition, up-to-date parking signage, and micro-mobility investments.



Improve Systemic Barriers
Westwood faces challenges with restrictive regulation, vacancies perpetuated by property owners, and maintaining a clean and safe environment.

Systemic barriers can be addressed with expedited permitting, partnering with neighborhood councils & property owners, short-term pop-ups, support such as commercial matchmaking, and enhanced clean & safe protocols.



Two-Phase Roadmap
WVIA can incorporate a two-phase roadmap to address perception gaps and systemic barriers to achieve vision as an integrated destination.

The roadmap spans two years with recommendations within broader community engagement, mobility infrastructure, vacancies, zoning & permitting, and cleanliness & safety, as well as potential controllable and uncontrollable threats to consider.

A consulting report suggests various steps to revitalize Westwood. From the [Bruin](#):

Westwood has a problem with its "overly student-centric identity," a consulting group told the Westwood Village Improvement Association... A report... by Anderson Strategy Group urged the association to lean away from student attraction, and make Westwood appeal to a broader audience, including families, residents and tourists, as well as address vacancy issues. The report said that while most businesses stay in Westwood to be close to UCLA, business owners want greater diversity in customers than only students. After receiving the report, WVIA Executive Director Michael Russell said he believes Westwood's proximity to UCLA is not a weakness, but added that the neighborhood could benefit from a wider audience...

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Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/11/05/report-urges-westwood-village-to-expand-commercial-appeal-beyond-students>.

The report notes that some property owners hold out for unrealistic rents, thus leading to long-term vacancies, because they believe lower rents would somehow devalue their buildings. Of course, a building without retail tenants IS worth less than one with tenants, even if those tenants don't pay fanciful rents. Which would you rather have? A bond that on its face says it pays 5% but actually pays 0%, or a bond that says it pays 3% and actually pays what it says?

The actual report is presented in a series of slides at <https://thewestwoodvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ASG-WVIA-Final-Presentation.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 160

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): Colleges announced more than 850 job cuts last month amid a tumultuous year for the sector. The layoffs hit large, wealthy, research institutions, such as the University of Southern California and Harvard University, which have multi-billion dollar endowments but have been battered by federal research funding losses, as well as small colleges struggling with enrollment declines. Here's a look at layoffs and program cuts announced in October.



University of Southern California: Grappling with a budget deficit of more than \$230 million, USC announced a wave of layoffs last month that will see 259 employees lose their jobs...

Michigan State University: Squeezed by rising operating costs and federal research funding disruptions, the public university eliminated 99 positions as of Oct. 14, President Kevin Guskiewicz announced. Another 83 positions have been "lost due to federal funding cuts" this year, he added...

Carnegie Mellon University: Hit by a loss in federal research funds, the private university in Pennsylvania laid off 75 staff members at its Software Engineering Institute last month... Those cuts reportedly make up 10 percent of the institute's total workforce...

University of Northern Colorado: Officials at the public university in Greeley announced last month that roughly 50 employees will be laid off due to financial challenges, including declining state funding and slumping enrollment... The university is looking to shed 80 to 100 jobs, between layoffs and eliminating vacancies...

University of Louisiana Lafayette: Facing a \$25 million deficit, ULL plans to cut 70 jobs... The reductions will be achieved through a mix "of position eliminations, retirements, resignations and reassignments," Interim President Jaimie Hebert wrote in an email last month...

Eastern Illinois University: Federal funding losses and decreases in international enrollment prompted layoffs at the public university in Charleston, which is cutting 44 jobs and closing 19 others, local TV station WCIA reported. Eastern Illinois plans to cut 23 instructors on annual contracts and 17 staff jobs, as well as not renew contracts for four academic support roles. Another 19 vacancies at EIU will not be restaffed...

Xavier University of Louisiana: The nation's only historically Black Catholic university laid off 46 full-time employees last month—roughly 6 percent of its workforce—due to mounting financial pressures...

Harvard University: Despite a booming endowment, Harvard is once again laying off employees. After an unspecified number of job cuts this summer, Harvard laid off roughly 40 employees in the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences last month...

Siena University: More than three dozen administrators and multiple faculty members are set to exit the private Catholic university in New York following a round of recent buyouts, the Times-Union reported. The newspaper noted that enrollment at Siena fell by more than 9 percent this year, and university officials have cast the buyouts as a restructuring effort to "right-size" the institution...

Clarke University: Amid financial pressures, the private Catholic university in Dubuque, Iowa, is cutting 13 academic programs and up to 37 jobs at the end of the academic year... Officials announced the cuts last month in response to declining enrollment and rising costs. A frequently asked questions page on Clarke's website also noted "a significant budget deficit." ...

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Ongoing cost-cutting measures at the Wisconsin flagship will see 31 employees laid off and another 156 positions left vacant... Officials announced cost-cutting moves earlier this year but said layoffs would be "a last resort." ...

University of Idaho: State budget cuts have prompted Idaho's public universities to trim some positions, including 28 staff and faculty jobs at the public research university... The University of Idaho is making the cuts to shave \$3.1 million in personnel costs...

Nebraska Wesleyan University: Cost-cutting efforts at the private university in Lincoln prompted the layoff of 14 staff members and another three positions were reduced from full-time to part-time status, the Lincoln Journal-Star reported. Faculty members were spared from cuts, though some academic programs could be axed in the future following a program review...

Rhode Island College: Buyouts are on the table at the public college in Providence, which is making voluntary retirement incentives available to as many as 101 employees in an effort to cut costs...

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Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/business/cost-cutting/2025/11/07/october-brought-deep-cuts-multiple-campuses>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: Carnegie Mellon, Clarke U, East Michigan U, Harvard, Nebraska Wesleyan U, PennWest U, Rhode Island College, Siena U, U of Idaho, U of Louisiana, U of Northern Colorado, U of Wisconsin, USC, Xavier U of Louisiana

I never promised you a Rose Bowl? - Part 2



Blog readers will know of the lawsuit by the City of Pasadena to prevent UCLA football from leaving the Rose Bowl for the new Sofi Stadium.* UCLA claims no decision about moving has been made. So maybe it's not surprising that Pasadena's request for a temporary restraining order has been denied. Still the case will continue. From the [Daily Bruin](#):

A judge denied the City of

Pasadena and Rose Bowl Operating Company's motion to file a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order against UCLA [yesterday].

The order would have required the university to continue holding football home games at the Rose Bowl Stadium. It would also bar the university from terminating its agreement with Pasadena and RBOC while a lawsuit – filed by the two parties that accused UCLA of breaching its contract by trying to move its home football games from the Rose Bowl to SoFi stadium – plays out in court. “At this stage, it is denied from lack of an emergency,” said presiding judge James C. Chalfant. Chalfant added that the plaintiffs could re-apply for an injunction after both parties obtain more evidence...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/11/12/judge-denies-temporary-restraining-order-to-block-ucla-from-leaving-rose-bowl>.

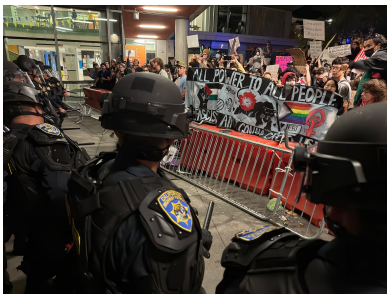
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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/11/i-never-promised-you-rose-bowl.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Bugged - Part 2



We noted yesterday the Turning Point protest at Berkeley.* From the [NY Times](#):

The Department of Justice said on Tuesday that it will investigate the University of California, Berkeley, after protesters confronted attendees of a campus event hosted by Turning Point USA, the conservative group founded by Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated in September. Harmeet Dhillon, who leads the department's civil rights division, wrote on X that the division

would “investigate what happened here.” Ms. Dhillon, a conservative lawyer from California, described the protesters as members of Antifa, a label that the Trump administration has applied to broad groups of people protesting against the government. She wrote that, “I see several issues of serious concern regarding campus and local security and Antifa’s ability to operate with impunity in CA.” ...

The university also said that it was cooperating with the Justice Department and would work with the F.B.I. to “identify the outside agitators responsible for attempting to disrupt” the Turning Point event. “UC Berkeley will take all appropriate steps to safeguard the right of every member of our community to speak and assemble freely,” it said in the statement. More than 900 people had attended the Turning Point event...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/11/us/berkeley-protests-turning-point-doj-investigation.html>.

Video from the protest from the web can be seen at:

<https://ia800103.us.archive.org/6/items/united-we-can-yes-on-50-united-we-can-10-3-2025/UC-Berkeley%20Turning%20Point%20protest%2011-10-2025.mp4>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/11/bugged.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [politics](#), [UC-Berkeley](#)

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

No thank you

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill made clear [last] Friday that it won't sign the federal "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education" that has been extended to all institutions after seven of the original nine universities invited rejected the offer... Last month the Trump administration floated a plan for preferential treatment on federal funding in exchange for universities overhauling admissions and hiring practices, freezing tuition for five years, capping international enrollment at 15 percent, and making various other concessions that many critics have warned will undermine academic freedom.*

UNC Chapel Hill chancellor Lee Roberts said Friday that while the university has not received a formal invitation from the Trump administration, he is not interested in the arrangement. "There are some parts of the compact that we are already doing and there are some parts that would be difficult or impossible," Roberts said in a faculty council meeting...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/11/11/unc-chapel-hill-wont-sign-compact>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:28 PM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [politics](#), [U of North Carolina](#)

Bugged

Blog readers will recall our posting about an upcoming Turning Point program scheduled for November 10 (last Monday) at UC-Berkeley.* It came on schedule and apparently there were confrontations. From the [Daily Cal](#):

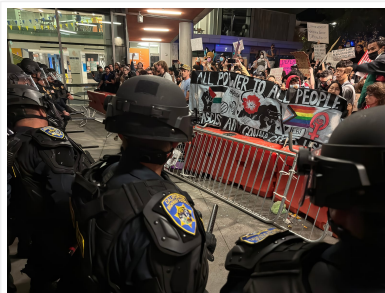
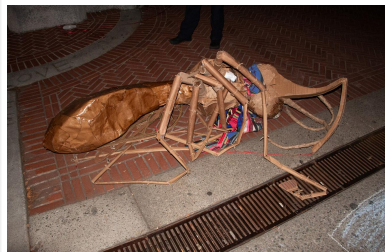
UCPD arrested four students early Monday morning for felony vandalism, according to information from campus administrators. The individuals were arrested while attempting to hang an approximately five-foot-tall cardboard bug off Sather Gate in protest of Turning Point USA's, or TPUSA, upcoming event on campus. The students, three of whom appear to be undergraduates, were booked in Santa Rita County Jail, where they remain awaiting bail of \$20,000 each for three individuals and \$10,000 for the other...

The demonstrators had posted posters with racist, misogynistic, and otherwise inflammatory quotes from TPUSA founder Charlie Kirk on the gate, who was killed on a college campus exactly two months ago...

As demonstrators attempted to string up the installation, it seems likely that the installation violated time, place and manner, or TPM, regulations, which prohibit individuals from physically obstructing or attaching anything to Sather Gate. Violating TPM violations are not, in themselves, criminal offenses; however, the associated actions may be considered a crime, according to campus policy...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/4-uc-berkeley-students-arrested-on-felony-vandalism-charges-for-anti-tpusa-art-installation/article_c65ad4c0-2c69-4d6f-b630-ba111573fd5a.html.

As to the event itself, from the [Daily Cal](#): *Hundreds of protesters and police officers armed in riot gear clashed in a series of tense confrontations and arrests on UC Berkeley's campus during Turning Point USA, or TPUSA's, final stop of its national tour Monday night. Five individuals were arrested in relation to various altercations with police and protesters, in addition to four students who were arrested early Monday morning for an anti-TPUSA art installation on Sproul Plaza. The students, who attempted to hang a large cardboard bug from Sather Gate, were arrested on charges of felony vandalism. The*



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Contributors

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event, which featured conservative activists comedian Rob Schneider and author Frank Turek, comes exactly two months after founder and president Charlie Kirk was assassinated at a TPUSA event at Utah Valley University.

Several student and community groups — including Jewish Voice for Peace, Students Organizing for Liberation and Cal Young Democratic Socialists of America and others — announced their intent to protest TPUSA's presence on campus prior to the event. Security measures, such as barricades surrounding Lower Sproul Plaza in front of Zellerbach Hall, were installed by the morning of the event...

Multiple arrests were made before the event began following violent altercations. One TPUSA supporter sustained visible injuries to the face after a fight broke out between them and a protester. The last arrest was made around 8:30 p.m....

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/protesters-armed-police-swarm-uc-berkeley-at-turbulent-turning-point-usa-event/article_fbff1cf4-206d-4a74-901e-61b7fc3a5a49.html.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/11/coming-soon-to-berkeley.html>.

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Labels: [UC-Berkeley](#), [Utah Valley University](#)

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